Refusal by Calcutta Port Trust to Allow Use of Land For Circular Railway Project

*208. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Circular Railway Project in Calcutta is facing an obstacle because of refusal by the Calcutta Port Trust to allow its land to be used for the project;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to review the decision; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI TG. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central Funds for Repairs of National Highways in Maharashtra

*209. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated funds, for repairing National Highways damaged by floods, to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI TG. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 124.72, Rs. 169.29 and Rs. 207.94 lakhs were allowed during 1993-943, 1994-95 respectively.

Private Investment in Ports

*210. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: WiH the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated fresh guidelines on private sector involvement in ports;

(b) if so, the details of the fresh guidelines issued;

(c) whether the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, would be amended accordingly;

(d) the names of the private firms interested for ports job; and

(e) by when the private investment would permitted?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (**SHRI** TG. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Major Port Trust Act, 1963 allows for private sector participa- tion.

(d) Private entrepreneurs can participate in the tenders as and when these are invited by the ports.

(e) Port Sector is already open to private investment.

Acquisition of Land for Telephone Exchange at Dharmajigudem in West Godavari District

*211. SHRI V HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has acquired land in Dharmajigudem in West Gordavari district for building a telephone exchange there;

(b) if so, when this land was acquired;

(c) the area of land acquired;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is undue delay in completion of the work;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the schedule of completion for this telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh Government has been requested to provide 50 cents. (0.5 acre) of land in the premises of Travellers Bunglow, Dharmajigudem. The land has not yet been given to the Department of Telecommunications.

(d) to (f) Work cannot be taken up unless the aforesaid land is made available by the State Government.